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"Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them." JEFFERSON.

OUR "AFRICAN SQUADRONS."

It is well known that by the eighth article of the Treaty of Washington the U. S. government stipulated to maintain a naval force on the West Coast of Africa, of not less than eighty guns, to co-operate with the British squadron on that coast in the suppression of the slave trade. The causes too, which led to the adoption of this article are generally well understood. Like the settlement of the north-eastern boundary, the *points* of *controversy* arising out of the questions of *right* of *search*, of visitation, and the abuse of these rights, were laid aside, and a compromise effected in the terms of the treaty. And although the arrangement was unexpected by all, and unsatisfactory to many, yet we believe it is generally conceded that the measure was a most judicious one, and the most honourable way of avoiding international difficulties. The British government plainly saw that without the right to search or visitation, or (laying aside terms) without the right of ascertaining the true character and nationality of all vessels on the coast of Africa, all their efforts, their immense outlay of treasure, and sacrifice of life in their extended attempts to abolish the slave trade must prove abortive, yea, worse than abortive, as they did not lessen the number shipped, but merely exposed the victims of the traffic to increased sufferings and torture. She felt, therefore, that her claims on this point, (claims too, which have ever been granted by courtesy on the high seas between friendly powers for the suppression of *piracy*, which the slave trade has been declared by the U. S. government) were but reasonable and ought to be complied with. She asked too only what she was willing to grant in turn. On the other hand, the people of the United States justly felt jealous of granting to the British government a right or privilege which bore a strong affinity, in name at least, to one formerly claimed by that power and which we had spent our blood in resisting. They too, well knew that the exercise of this very power, or right of visit, which had for the few past years been permitted on that coast as a matter of courtesy, had been grossly abused by officers of the British navy, and that the regular American traders even to English settlements, with all evidences of nationality and lawful traffic on board, had

been seized and adjudicated in the "court of mixed commissions," in a British port, and confiscated. The position of the parties, therefore, was such that for either to persist in its demands would be imcompatible with a continuation of friendly nations. Great Britain readily received the acquisition of eighty guns to assist in the suppression of the slave trade in lieu of the "right of visitation" of suspected vessels bearing the American flag, and the American government, while it felt bound in honour and principle to refuse this concession, could not do less than grant a show of assistance in suppressing a traffic which she had long since denounced as piracy on the high seas.

Thus, whatever may have been the ostensible or avowed object in the establishment of our squadron on the African coast, or whatever may be its consequences or results, it cannot be denied that it was done rather as a matter of compromise than principle, rather to allow England to suppress the slave trade than with a view of doing much ourselves. In proof of this, it is only sufficient to say, that the state of things which now requires a squadron there, has existed for the past twenty years.

But no matter what may have been the immediate causes which led to the adoption of this measure, inasmuch as it has been adopted, and must be continued during the period of five years from the date of the treaty, it certainly is the duty of our government to reap all possible benefits therefrom, and to make it in all practicable ways available to the interests of American citizens. It has often been alledged (but we think unjustly) that the measures taken by the English government for the suppression of the slave trade, are rather adopted for the purposes of protecting their commerce on that coast and extending their sway over the interior, thereby creating a vast market for their manufactured exports. That this is a secondary object, and a justly important and praiseworthy one too, cannot be doubted, and that government has managed the matter with much credit to itself and advantage not only to her citizens but to the native Africans. The suppression of the slave trade, the civilization of Africa, the protection of her commerce and the furnishing a market for the products of the industry of her own citizens, go hand-in-hand, are all alike, objects of interest to that government, and are advanced by the same measures. By her navy she clears that coast of pirates and freebooters; she forms treaties of commerce with unfrequented tribes and enforces from them just and honest intercourse with her merchantmen; she seizes the freighted slave ship and transport its wretched victims to her colonies and trains them up as "British subjects." By her colonies planted at the entrance of the great rivers and prominent points of that coast, she secures all trade, so far as their influence extends, to the virtual exclusion of vessels of all other nations. These, too, furnish depots for merchandise for coast trade and transhipment, places of relief for disabled vessels and sick and distressed seamen, and points from which civilization and *British influence* spreads in all directions.

But, up to this period, what has the *American* government done?—nothing—nothing. And now that a squadron has been sent out—that appropriations have been made for the purpose—that the attention of the government and

the American people has been directed towards Africa, we might almost give the same answer to the same interrogatory. On the ground that the first object of the squadron is the suppression of the slave trade, we would ask how are the measures in process calculated to effect this object? Why, so far as we understand it, in the least manner possible, with the fufilment of the letter of the treaty. In the first place with regard to the character of the vessels despatched to that station.—The recent Report of the Secretary of the Navy says, the cruising ground of our squadron extends from the "Madeira and Canary Islands to the Bight of Biaffria, and from the African coast to the thirtieth degree of west longitude," a distance of coast line, independent of breadth or longitude, of near three thousand miles. It is well known that of late years, with barely two exceptions, all vessels known to be engaged in the slave trade, have depended altogether upon their speed, or swiftness, to enable them to escape molestation from cruisers. Now with such an extent of cruising ground where little or no defence on part of the slaver is to be expected or can be made, it must be obvious that next to sending out an eighty gun ship, thereby fulfiling the *letter* of the treaty, our vessels at present on that station are of the least possible utility, the squadron consisting of one frigate, two sloops of war and a brig. Of the sailing qualities of these vessels, excepting the brig Porpoise, we know nothing, but we never saw a slaver on that coast that would run the least risk in taking off slaves in sight of her. In order to insure any degree of success in arresting the slave trade by our eighty gun squadron, it should be composed of the smallest sized vessels in the service, with but one long gun amidships and a complement not exceeding thirty men all told.

With regard to their station and cruising grounds. This is so extended and needlessly too, that the squadron of four vessels absolutely becomes lost in it. Nobody ever heard of a slaver to the windward of Cape Verd in prosecution of the traffic. Madeira, the Canaries or the Cape de Verd Islands, doubtless afford more agreeable stopping places to the officers and men than are to be found on the coast, but never a slaver. At Bissaos in the Rio Grand, the slave trade commences, and occcasional factories exist along the coast as far down as New Cesters, a distance of some five hundred miles. From New Cesters there is not a slave factory for near one thousand miles of coast line, including a part of the Grain Coast, Ivory and Gold Coasts, and the European forts, to Whydah. Here they again commence and continue across the line, occupying all the great outlets of the Niger and other rivers. In order therefore to operate with any effect upon this trade, the cruising should be confined to those parts of the coast in which it is carried on. The only possible chance of securing a slaver by a sailing vessel, is to watch the factories themselves, to lie off and on until one heaves in sight and then give chase. The slaves must be shipped from the factories or their vicinity, and if close watch is kept the carrying vessels can often be secured.

But there is another important object to be effected by the African squadron, and one too which must be presumed the executive had in view in the formation of the treaty, viz: the advancement and protection of the

American commerce with Africa. And the question at once arises: how can this object best be effected? We answer, in two ways; first, directly, by the formation of treaties of commerce with the more important native tribes on different sections of the coast, through their kings and head trade men: and secondly, indirectly, by affording aid to the American colonies already established there. What instructions have been given to the commandant on that station with regard to advancing our commercial interests there, or of forming treaties of commerce with the native chiefs, if any, we cannot say: but certainly there never occurred a more favourable opportunity of effecting a great and permanent good to our country. It is well known that the African continent is one of the most valuable and productive in the world, that her natural resources are unequalled by any other, and that she has a population abundantly able with proper inducements to develope them. It is well known, too, that at this time the great commercial nations of Europe are striving for precedence in the acquisition of the commerce of this continent. It is known, too, that the greatest article of traffic with Africa can be procured only in the United States, viz: tobacco; and that heavy cottons, gunpowder and spirits, the next in importance in order, we can compete with any European country in manufacturing and exporting. With such advantages for such a commerce, and with our present facilities for securing it, ought not some arrangements to be made at this time to place it on a safe and permanent footing ere it is too late? Unless something is done we predict that twenty years hence there will not be a river, bay or canoe landing of consequence on the coast of Africa open to the free entrance of an American bottom. The first step to be taken is to form treaties of commerce with the native chiefs on all parts of the coast not now claimed by European governments. A permanency could be given to such treaties by the purchase of a small point of land, which would afford a safe boat or canoe landing. This spot need not be protected or defended, the bare purchase and cession would prevent an ultimate transfer of the whole to some European power. This would ever secure to our merchantmen a right of trade of which they could not be dispossessed except by open force. If this is not done we shall soon learn that such and such a section of the coast has passed into the hands of the English, French, German or Danish governments, that a colony is established at such a point, and no foreign vessel is allowed to trade with the natives, or even to enter any goods or merchandise which will in any degree conflict with the interests of the commerce of the nation thus occupying, as is the case now at the French settlements of Senegal and Goree, the British of Gambia and Sierre Leone, the Dutch at Elmina and Accra, and in fact at all the European settlements on the coast.

But, in addition to this, our commerce needs the protection of American vessels of war, protection both from pirates and the more barbarous tribes with whom we traffic. We not only require their protection from violence but in enforcing the fulfilment of contracts. The system of trade on the most important marts, as in the great rivers in the Bights of Benin and Biaffria, is such that aid of this kind is absolutely necessary to its successful prosecution. In the first place on the arrival of a vessel say of three hundred tons burthen, a dash or present, called comey, is exacted by the chiefs of the country of

not less than one thousand dollars in value, before any trade palaver can be opened. The entire cargo must then be delivered to the trade-men at the direction of the chiefs, on credit. The owner of the merchandise, therefore, must depend entirely upon the integrity of these people for a return cargo, and generally, if he is unprotected or the flag unknown, he must induce them to believe it for their ultimate interest to pay up well, or the voyage will turn out but a sorry one. This regulation has to this day almost entirely excluded American vessels from the most profitable points of trade. They cannot with safety entrust their cargo to those from whom they have no means of enforcing payment. But the case is very different with the English trader. In most cases a regular treaty of commerce has been made between an officer of his government and the chiefs, and he lands his goods in accordance therewith, well knowing that in case of any great default or delay in re-payment, he has but to threaten them with a "man-of-war" and the balance is at once made up. If something in the way of treaty or purchase is not speedily done, we again repeat, that the commerce of that coast, at least the important part of it, will speedily be lost to the United States, and it is only a matter of astonishment to us that our vessels have not long ere this been excluded from the Delta of the Niger and other large rivers.

The second and most efficient mode of advancing our commercial interests in Africa and securing a permanent market for American produce, we have said is, by affording protection to, and cherishing the American colonies already established there.—This we would urge both as a matter of policy on part of our government and of *justice* to the colonies themselves. The influence already exerted by these settlements upon American commerce has never been duly estimated. They have been the very foundation of a great part of the trade now carried on between this country and West Africa. If we look back to the interval of time between the cessation of the *carrying* trade of slaves, which was successfully and vigorously prosecuted by our northern merchantmen, and the establishment of the colony of Liberia, we find our commerce with the West Coast of Africa dwindell'd to almost nothing. In fact the trade could hardly be said to have been resumed subsequent to the last war, until the founding of the Liberia colony. Until that period the coast of Guinea was unknown to American merchants, except as a slave mart.

The colony has been instrumental in forming and increasing our African commerce in various ways. First by publications made by the Colonization Society, giving valuable information with regard to the climate, the seasons, the productions of the soil and the demand for articles of American produce and manufacture. Then by chartering vessels for the transportation of emigrants, thereby giving the masters of such vessels, and through them the shipping merchants, an insight into the peculiarities of a trade with which they were before entirely unacquainted.—It is a fact that more than two-thirds of the commerce between the United States and West Africa for the past twenty years arose from this one cause. Again, owing to the establishment of the colonies, the trade in their vicinity has been materially increased, produce has been concentrated in such a manner as to allow the merchant captain to transact his business in much less time and with com-

paratively less risk. The colony in fact places our African commerce on nearly the same footing as that of our northern with the southern states. It forms a port of entry for which our vessels clear, and where proper debenture certificates can be obtained for securing drawback. It furnishes a depot for any surplus cargo or such as may not find a ready market. In case of wreck or danger from the seas, or stress of weather, it either furnishes the means of repair and refitting, or an asylum for mariners until they can be returned to their homes. But more than all, it affords a place of refuge and recovery in the too frequent cases of disease which affect whole crews of vessels imprudently trading in the pestilential rivers of the coast. We have again and again seen vessels in the harbour of Monrovia brought down from the malarious rivers of the windward coast with not one of their original crews on board able to perform duty. In many instances we have seen them restored to comparative health and enabled to complete their voyage; in others new crews have been shipped from the colonists to navigate the vessel to the United States. In either case the vessel and cargo were saved entirely by the existence of the colony of Liberia. The fact is well known to all acquainted with the West Coast of Africa, that the lives of many American mariners and thousands of dollars worth of American merchandise have been saved through the instrumentality of these colonies; that through them and them *only*, has American commerce been fostered and protected on that coast. We say therefore that it is not only a matter of interest and policy, but of *duty*—of *justice*, that the American government should, through the agency of her squadron and otherwise, afford them all constitutional aid and support.

But can it be believed that with a knowledge of all these facts, (for they have been before the public for the past ten years) with a knowledge that these same colonies have been planted on the very ground of the old slave barricoons, and that these same American colonists have actually destroyed by force of arms several large slave factories and liberated some hundreds of slaves, abolished the very existence of slavery within their territory; yea, done more to suppress the slave trade than any one christian civilized power save England—we say, can it be believed, that where so much has been done through the individual philanthropy of American citizens—the American government should to this late period fail to take any cognizance of these colonies whatever? Yea, what is worse, that when she is forced by circumstances to maintain a squadron on that very coast for the suppression of the slave trade, that a foreign port far remote from the scenes of the traffic should be selected as a rendezvous for her squadron and a depot for their provisions? Hitherto the colonists have but considered themselves neglected—they have felt that causes have existed which at least could be alleged with plausibility, for the utter neglect with which they have been treated, and under all circumstances tending to alienate their affections from America and the American people, still they have honorably maintained a kind of allegiance to our government and the kindliest feelings for the land of their birth. But it cannot be hoped that with the policy at present pursued by our government with regard to them, this state of things can long continue. If they are to be set at naught and considered of no

account in matters wherein they have already effected so much—if they are to be considered as unfit for a rendezvous for an American squadron, or even as a depot for marine stores—if their parent government refuses to them the incidental aid and advantage arising from such an arrangement, then we predict that ere long they will prefer to seek a paternity equally advantageous and honourable to themselves, and one too which will be most readily granted.

But independent of any claims of the colonies upon the protection and patronage of our government, we are unable to conceive the policy or expediency of establishing the rendezvous of our squadron at the Cape de Verds, or of cruising among the Canaries and Madeira, if the object of the African squadron is either the suppression of the slave trade or the protection and advancement of American commerce on the Coast of Africa. Granting the letter of the treaty is to be fulfilled in good faith, and that the squadron of eighty guns is to assist to its utmost in the suppression of the slave trade, then certainly the first object would be to select a place of rendezvous as near as possible to the scene of action, and which should at the same time possess the requisite qualities of healthiness of location, good anchorage ground and facility for procuring good water and fresh provisions. As St. Jago was selected in preference to the American Colonies, it must be supposed to possess one or more of these qualities, in a greater degree than either Monrovia or Cape Palmas. But the case is far otherwise. In the dry season we grant, the Cape de Verds are considered to be more salubrious than the colonies, but in the rainy season, we believe that it is conceded that they are all equally unhealthy with any part of the coast. With regard to harbour or anchorage ground the preference must be given to any open roadstead on the coast to Port au Praya. In the rainy season the whole region of the Cape de Verds is noted for squalls and foul weather, and the swell rolling into the harbour of Port au Praya from the south is so tremendous, that no vessel can at times ride with safety. On the other hand, well manned and well rigged vessels can, at all times and seasons, lay at anchor at any distance from the shore on the African coast in from six to twenty fathoms water, and generally in muddy bottom, without the least risk of parting their cables. As to facilities for procuring fresh provisions and vegetables, the barren Cape de Verds, affording only a browsing for goats, and whose inhabitants are supplied with nearly all their breadstuff from foreign vessels, probably next to the Coast of Zahara afford the least of any port in the world. While the American colonies, particularly that of Cape Palmas, would well supply those articles so important for the preservation of the health of the crews of cruisers on a long voyage. Here are to be found goats, sheep, bullocks and fowls in abundance, also, the fruits and vegetables peculiar to tropical climates, as rice, banannas, plantains, sweet potatoes and the like in any desirable quantities. Independently, therefore, of all claims of the colonies to such incidental advantages as might arise from making them the rendezvous for our squadron, we conceive the interests of the government, the welfare of the squadron, and the very success of the enterprise imperatively require it. The immediate vicinity of the colonies is the very ground on which the squadron is required to act.

At twelve hours sail from Liberia bay is the greatest slave mart on the windward coast, whence it is computed that from five to ten thousand slaves are shipped annually; and the nearer to such points the rendezvous is established and the depot fixed, the more advantageously will the objects of the squadron be accomplished.

There never was a more suicidal measure than this apparantly intentional neglect of the Africo-American colonies by our government. What could not have been done by the government itself, namely, the purchase of territory and the planting of foreign colonies to advance our commercial interests, has been projected and accomplished by individual philanthropy. What could not have been effected by white citizens of the United States has been executed by her freed coloured population, pilgrims of the nineteenth century, seeking that liberty in their ancestral land which was denied them in the new world. Here our government finds ready at hand the very establishment which a sagacious statesman would have desired, a key of that vast continent to unlock and open its treasures to our commerce, a foothold from which, with the least possible protection, we could not be dislodged. We have thus far realized all the advantages of colonial possessions without the expense of founding or supporting them. We have the material for extending and perpetuating colonies on the coast of Africa not possessed by any other nation in the world; and why should all these advantages be sacrificed? Why should we not, at least, seek to retain what we already possess, when it can so easily be done? Above all, let it not be said that we refuse the incidental aid which *our* squadron would necessarily afford by making these colonies the centre of its operations.

(From the African Repository.)

LETTER FROM JOHN McDONOGH, Esq.

This distinguished philanthropist is too well known by the former details, published in our number for February, of his great experiment for the freedom and elevation of eighty of his slaves, to need our commendation. He is eminently a practical man, looking to vast results, and very capable from his intimate and thorough knowledge of the system of slavery, and the character and habits of our coloured population, to devise and elucidate plans for reconciling the interests of the two races at the south, and connecting the liberty and improvement of the descendants of Africa in the United States, with the civilization and advancement of their far more ignorant and degraded African brethren. Whatever he writes should be read and considered by the whole country.

Rev. R. R. Gurley: New Orleans, *October* 5, 1843.

Dear Sir,—In the month of March last, in addressing a friend in Mississippi, in reply to some inquiries he had made of me in relation to the treatment of slaves, I sketched for him, (at his solicitation,) a plan, which if pursued by the friends of the black man, of our country, would lead, I am fully convinced, in a very short space of time, to their freedom, and settlement in Liberia.

The features of this, vary somewhat from the plan I pursued myself, and which I gave to the world through the press, though, its basis is the same. I intended at the time to have sent you an extract from it, that it might be

published (if you approved of it) in the African Repository, but have been hindered from so doing by a press of business until the present moment. You will now, sir, find it enclosed. The great and principal features of this plan, is the rapid results it would produce, (if generally pursued and carried out) in the interests of the black man. But, sir, (as you will perceive in what I have said in it,) the black man stands in need of a friend; his education has not fitted him for thrift, to take care of his gains, husband, and lay them up; he must have a friend to do that office for him. If the ministers of God's word, throughout the Southern States, will undertake that office for them, their success would be assured. If slaves, then, sir, on plantations, could succeed under this plan, to effect their freedom, how much more easy, certain and rapid would it be for those (both men and women,) of our cities, towns, and villages, to effect that object under it. There is not one of them, sir, with thrift, industry and economy, but may effect their freedom in the space of six to eight years at the furthest.

With great respect, and best wishes, I am, dear sir, your friend and obedient servant, JOHN MCDONOGH.

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Extract of a letter of John McDonogh, of New Orleans, to the Rev. ———, of ——— County, in the State of Mississippi, dated the 10th March, 1843.

"*Rev. and Dear Sir,*—The plan generally pursued by slaves, men and women, to obtain their freedom, has been a wrong one, taken up and adopted without reflection by them, and masters and mistresses have generally agreed to it, and consented without reflecting on its incorrectness, not to say dishonesty toward the slave; and I have to charge myself (as it has occurred to me frequently, many years back, to have sold their freedom to different individuals, both men and women, held by me in slavery) with the same offence, though it was committed innocently by myself as well as them, for want of due reflection. The mode generally pursued, has been, when a slave by his industry, has amassed and got together some $50 or $100, to go to his master or mistress, and say that he was desirous of purchasing himself, that he could pay a part of the price down, and would pay the residue as soon, and as fast, as he could make and get the money; to this, the master or mistress has consented, in good faith, has understood and established the price, at $400, $500, or $600, or whatever might be, received the $100 on account from the slave, for which he gave a receipt, and held him to labour for him, the master, as usual, the whole of the six days of the week, until the balance of the price was paid him; in some five or six years the master would receive another $100 from the slave, and so on to the end; or, perhaps, the slave would pay him $10 or $20 at a time, as he laboured at nights and procured it, so that it may be that twenty, twenty-five, or thirty years would pass away before his freedom was obtained; the slave labouring during the whole of that time for his master, though he had long since paid him for the one-sixth, the one-third, the one-half, the two-thirds, and the five-sixths part of his time.

"Now, sir, the whole of this mode of operating was wrong; although both master and slave were in good faith, and considered it all right and just, the idea having never entered the mind either of one or the other of them, (master or slave,) of separating the time, separating the days, of selling by one, and purchasing by the other, a part of the time of the slave, say a day in each week, at a time. The true and just mode to have been adopted between the parties, in such a case, it appears to me, is a very plain one, and should have been this: When a slave came forward to his master, to purchase his freedom, the first step to be taken, was, to establish his value, and the price to be paid for the six days he has to labour for his

master, the one-sixth part of which would be the price of a day. The slave should then be permitted to purchase one day, say Monday, of each week. That day, once obtained as his own, to labour on as he pleased for himself, in the gaining of money, added to his gains, from the labour of the six nights of the week, the probability would be, and is, that in two years, or less time, his gains would be sufficient to purchase a second day of his time from his master, say Tuesday. Then, owner of two full days in each week, to labour and work for himself, a year or a year and a half, no doubt, would suffice to gain a sum sufficient to pay for, and purchase a third day. Now, owner of three days in each week, to labour on for himself, he would soon pay for the fourth, the fifth, and sixth days. In this mode, and under this plan, I am convinced, sir, and doubt not, that a great majority of the black people, men and women, in the United States, might obtain their freedom, and that of their children, in the spaces of eight, nine, or twelve years at the farthest. As I calculate, it would take them (by means of labouring at nights, and amassing, and laying up in other ways) some two, three, or four years to get together the first $50, $60, or $80, with which they would, in the first instance, go to their master, or mistress, to purchase the first day with; but that first day, once obtained, paid for, and their own, their success and freedom, in the space of four, five, or six years more, would be certain; as the labour of that one day, in each week, would soon (from their earnings) give them the means of paying for the other five days. One thing, sir, in my mind, is reduced to a certainty, that there would be no lack of labour for such individuals, men and women, as were known to have made such an agreement with their masters, and were labouring to obtain and secure their freedom. Convinced as I am, (knowing the humanity that reigns in the bosom of men in general,) that the humane of every neighbourhood where slavery existed, throughout the whole length and breadth of the land, would take a deep interest, and consider it their bounden duty, to assist in obtaining labour for all such persons.

"After saying, sir, what I have in the foregoing lines, I will now, as you request my views fully on the subject, with the recommendation of such a mode of procedure as would best comport with the interest of both master and slave, proceed with great pleasure to give them, and offer to your consideration such recommendations in the carrying them out, as to secure, I would hope, a happy result. The slave, sir, stands in the utmost need of a friend; (without a true and faithful friend, he could, I fear, accomplish nothing, or at the best, but little;) to whom, then, should he look for assistance and friendship but to his master, and the holy man, the pastor of his church, the representative on earth of his Heavenly Master?

"The plan then, sir, which I take the liberty, at your especial request, to recommend to you, (and to every minister of the gospel in the southern, and slaveholding states,) in the interest of both master and slave, is this: Knowing as I well do (and as the slaveholders of your district of country, without exception, as well as the slaves, all know,) the purity of your intentions; I recommend to you in the first place, and as the first step to be taken, to see the owners of slaves, one at a time, to make each one a visit on his plantation; inform them you have a plan to propose to them in relation to their slaves, which you believe could but tend to the interest and happiness of both master and slave, in the carrying of it out—that if approved of by him, the master, you would, with his permission, on some convenient Sabbath day, assemble his black people, either in the church or on the plantation, to propose it to them for their acceptance; that if not approved of by the master, you drop it, and say no more about it, as relates to that plantation, and the slaves belonging to it. That the plan is this:

desirous of serving him and his slaves, here and hereafter, and the posterity of both, by separating the two races of men, (in peace and good will,) by sending the black man to his own country, the country of his fathers; that if you will agree to establish a fair and equitable price, as the value of each man, woman, and child, now owned by you, the one-sixth part of which valuation shall be the price at which you will sell to themselves (as soon as they are able to pay you for it, by getting together money, by labouring at nights for themselves, in the raising and selling of corn, of rice, fowls, hogs, or in other ways;) one day of their time in each week; when that first day is paid for, it will be their own, to labour on as they think proper, to gain and obtain money to pay you for another day of each week; when that second day is paid for, they will be owners of two days of their time in each week, to labour on to pay you for the third day of each week, and so on, until the whole six days are paid for and their own. That if he consents, and agrees to this plan, as said above, you will then assemble his people, inform them of the conversation held with their master, of his agreeing to it, &c. &c.; that now, as their friend, you are ready, and desirous to do every thing to facilitate them in the acquirement of their freedom: (that is, freedom in Liberia, in the land of their fathers;) for that is to be, and must be, the understanding with their masters, that it is their freedom in Liberia which he agrees to sell them, that they are to emigrate, immediately on acquiring their freedom, to the land of their ancestors, where they will enjoy freedom and happiness; inform them in what way it is to be effected; of the ease it may be accomplished, in the space of 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 years, through industry, economy and perseverance, and well doing; that the money to purchase the first day, is to be and must be acquired by them, by labouring at nights on the piece of ground which their master has allotted to each one of them for their own individual use, in raising Indian corn, rice, potatoes, and other articles; and in raising fowls, hogs, &c. for market—that the money to purchase the first day will be the most difficult to obtain, and take the longest time to acquire; (but may easily be acquired by industry and economy, in 3 or 4 years at the farthest;) but that, once acquired, their success is certain, and the money to purchase the other days of their time, so soon as one day in each week is paid for and their own, (to labour on for themselves, in the gaining of money,) will be easily obtained; that to assist them, and to secure the application of their gains to the special object of their freedom, and that a single cent of it may not be estranged to any other purpose whatever, you stand in need of and must have a friend, who will receive and husband your small gains for you; a banker, to keep your accounts, and hold your funds in deposit; that I will be that friend and banker for that express purpose; that each time you bring me a sum of money, no matter how small, twenty-five cents, fifty cents, one dollar, two dollars, or whatever it may be, I will receive it from you, put it down to the credit of your account, on my books, and give each one of you a small book in which I will also enter the sums received each time; so that each one will also have his own account in his own possession, &c. &c.

"Before closing this long communication, I will now again observe, as my firm opinion and belief, that, there is not a slave in our country of industrious and economical habits, either man or woman, who may not, had they a true and faithful friend to cheer them on, and encourage them in industry, and who would husband their little gains for them, (for the slave, as is natural to his situation, knows nothing of hoarding, laying up, and husbanding,) acquire their freedom in the mode and manner I have pointed out, in the space of eight to twelve years at the farthest. I fear, sir, that

masters in general, (who should be the true friends of their slaves,) give themselves little thought, or trouble, on the subject of their freedom: Why it is so, I cannot say. If they can do a good work without the cost of a dollar to themselves, why refuse to do it? You, sir, and your co-labourers in the ministry of our blessed Lord and Master, have it in your power to do vast good in this interesting cause; (a cause which interests two continents;) and I well know you will not refuse the doing it, if the owners of slaves approve of the course recommended.

"I have observed in the foregoing lines, 'that such black people as were striving to effect their freedom under this plan, by the purchase of a day of their time, would never be at a loss for labour.' To facilitate this, however, societies might be formed in each neighbourhood, of humane persons, whose object should be to obtain and secure labour and employment for all such black people so situated; and where labour was not to be obtained, to make it for them, so that they might have at all times employment in some way. Similar societies are now formed in every part of England, as well as in some parts of our own country, say in Philadelphia, for the purpose of obtaining employment and labour (or of making it when it is not to be obtained,) for the distressed among the poor and labouring classes—which societies are the means of doing great good.

"I will still further observe, sir, that I have many years since, seen and experienced what industrious black people, both men and women, could do with a little encouragement from their master, when freedom was the object in view. I have had at various times, black people, both men and women, (slaves,) who purchased their freedom from me; obtained by means of their labour at night on land which I permitted them to cultivate for themselves; cultivating three and four acres of land in Indian corn, sweet potatoes, &c. Some of them raising yearly, ten to one hundred barrels of corn, which I generally sold for them at sixty-two and a half cents to one dollar the barrel. (Corn in Louisiana is sold by the barrel, in ears; the barrel measure is the common flour barrel, and our new land generally yields twenty to thirty barrels to the acre.) Whenever of moonlight nights they wanted a plough, or ploughs, and working animals, (for I have known some of them to hire other of their fellow-servants to assist them in their fields, in their own private labour,) I allowed them at all times the use of them, to expedite their work. By this means, and the raising and selling of hogs and fowls, I have known them very often make from forty to fifty, and some years even eighty and one hundred dollars each. So that in ten, twelve, or fifteen years, they generally acquired their freedom; paying me yearly the sum they thus made, on account of their freedom, and working the whole of the six days in the week besides, for me, until the whole sum, and last dollar of their price was paid to me. At which time they would get their discharge, obtain their papers, and go out, free.

"But, sir, had I then reflected on the course which I now recommend, which is the only true, just and honest one, (and which I now can but regret that I had not then seen, reflected on, and pursued it, in my dealings with them,—that I did not pursue it, arose I confess, sir, entirely from a want of reflection on my part,—convinced as I then was that the plan I did pursue, was the correct and honest one, but now, too late to do them justice, I see, and am convinced it was not; that of selling to them one day at a time out of each week, how different to them would have been the result! No doubt but they would have acquired their freedom in one-half of the time it took them to accomplish it in the old mode, say in five, six, or eight years."

REMARKABLE ABOLITION MISTAKE CORRECTED.

In Mr. Garrison's Liberator of August 11th, is a prolix account of the celebration of the 1st of August, in Dedham, Mass., and among the speeches reported as delivered on the occasion, is one by the Rev. Mr. Pierpont, in which we read with surprise the following passage. He is speaking of the slaves emancipated by the British Government.

"I have more proof to offer of the wealth which emancipation has brought to the people, the education, the religion, and the progress in civilization. There were three colored men at the London Convention, missionaries from the British West Indies, sent thence, by the emancipated slaves, to carry Christianity to Africa. Besides raising money enough to support their own schools, churches and clergy, how much, think you, they have raised for missionary purposes since the emancipation? Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling! Ask the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions what they have been able to do with our whole broad land to draw from, from the St. John's to the Sabine? Can they show us in the last five years much more? Oh! these men are sinking into barbarism—'tis of no use to expect labor, morality, religion or improvement, of them, after they are so unfortunate as to be made free."

When we first read this statement, we almost doubted our own sight, and wondered the more, because of the high character of the gentleman who made it. We therefore resolved to ascertain, if possible, the authority upon which he relied for its truth, and wrote to a friend (much addicted to searching into the grounds and realities of things) to make inquiry on the subject. He waited upon Mr. Pierpont (who had perhaps never seen the report) who smiled at what he termed the enormous blunder of the Reporter, observing that by this time, it had grown he presumed, to £2,000,000. His authority for what he said, or meant to say, was a letter of Mr. Leavitt, from London, published in the Emancipator, in connexion with what was said in the World's Convention, about two coloured missionaries, going from the West Indies to Africa. He did not recollect the sum, for having the statement before him in print, he only stated it as it stood in black and white. The next resort of our friend was to the Emancipator office and Mr. Leavitt. The letter of Mr. Leavitt, referred to by Mr. Pierpont was found, but unfortunately contains not one word on the subject. Mr. Leavitt conjectured however, that Mr. Pierpont might have taken his facts from a letter of Rev. A. A. Phelps, published in the New York Evangelist, of August 3d. On examination "it was there found stated, that in the West Indies, since 1835, places of worship had been provided for 44,170 persons, at an expense of £78,401, but we are not informed who paid the money. It is farther stated, that the emancipated in a certain part of the West Indies, had expended more than £75,000 for houses and land; that is, in the purchase of land to cultivate, and purchase or erection of houses to live in—not houses of worship." The letter contained some other statistics, but they all related to the amount of sugar crop, or other matters equally irrelevant to the present question.

Such is the information we derive from a most authentic source. We would not insinuate that there has been any intentional misrepresentation in the case. It would have been delightful if the statement of Mr. Pierpont could have been confirmed.

But the mistake should not have escaped the eye of the editor of the Liberator, and is one so egregious that all honest abolitionists should rejoice in its correction.—*African Repository.*

MR. KENNEDY'S REPORT.

We find in the African Repository of the present month a most interesting and able article upon the matter of this Report and the accompanying documents. Mr. Gurley goes over the whole ground of the repeated applications of the friends of the cause of colonization to congress for appropriations or some cognizance of the society and its colonies—and makes a most eloquent and powerful appeal to the public, the officers of government and the present congress to give the matter that consideration which it most justly merits. Did our limits permit we would gladly give the whole article an insertion, with the conviction that nothing could be more acceptable to our readers. After having exemplified the estimation in which the cause and the society was held by the most prominent statesmen and patriots of the past twenty years, by quoting the writings, speeches, resolutions and acts of such men as Mercer, Madison, Monroe, Marshall, King, Harper and Key, Mr. Gurley continues:

'Our principal object now is, to invite special attention to the report of Mr. Kennedy, and to the accompanying documents. The appendix embraces the earliest publications of the American Colonization Society, an extensive correspondence of our government with foreign powers on the subject of the slave trade, the resolutions of nearly half the state legislatures of the Union in favour of the plan of the society; the most recent and authentic testimony in reference to Liberia; ample extracts from the reports of the society, and a great variety of information gathered from late valuable publications, both American and English, in relation to the population, commerce, superstitions and resources of Western Africa. Indeed there is hardly a topic of interest to the friends of African civilization and colonization which is not noticed and to some extent elucidated in this invaluable document.

'The state of Virginia, some years ago, made an appropriation of about eighty thousand dollars to advance the cause. But certain provisions in the bill, threw such restrictions and embarrassment around this appropriation as to render it well nigh unavailable to the society. Some of the distinguished citizens of that state, regard the faith of the general assembly as still pledged to render this amount of aid, at least to the enterprise, because they cannot imagine that the appropriation was made, except with a sincere purpose, that the benefits proposed by it should be realized. We trust this interpetration of the intention of the Virginia assembly is correct, and that the act of appropriation will be renewed without those restrictions that have prevented, hitherto, the expenditure of the fund.

'There is now, if we are not misinformed, in the treasury of the state of Georgia, several thousand dollars, derived from the sale, under her authorities, of certain unfortunate Africans, brought before the passage of the act of congress for their benefit, in contravention of our laws against the slave trade, within the limits of that state, and we cannot doubt, that a motion by one of the intelligent members of her legislature, to give this fund to the cause of African colonization, would receive the sanction of that body, and of the citizens generally of that state.

'At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Kennedy submitted the following resolutions:

"*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled*, That the increasing importance of the colonies on

the Western Coast of Africa, both in regard to the commerce of that coast and their influence in suppressing the slave trade, renders it expedient that an agent should be appointed by the government to protect and advance the interests of American trade in that region;—that he should be empowered to form treaties or conventions with the native tribes on the coast of Africa, for the advancement of the American trade, and for the suppression of the traffic in slaves.

"*And be it further resolved*, That the subject of settling the political relations, proper to be adopted and maintained between this government and the colonies now established, or which may hereafter be established on the coast of Africa, by the citizens or public authorities of the United States, or of any of the states, be referred to the secretary of state, with a direction that he report thereon to the next congress."

'Amid the various theories adopted in regard to the constitutional powers of congress, all admit, that the protection of commerce, the suppression of the slave trade, and the support and defence of re-captured Africans, are objects embraced within those powers. Two of these objects, from the very origin of the constitution, and one for a period of more than twenty years, have been deemed proper subjects for national legislation. It is well known that our commerce on the African coast has been exposed, for want of the protection of government, to peculiar hazards and disadvantages, that the British trade enjoys much more ample and efficient protection, and is far more valuable than ours; that it is perfectly practicable, and at a small expense, by the continued presence of a squadron, and the support of a commercial agent empowered to negotiate treaties with the African tribes, to remedy the evil; that a joint commission of christian nations might, also, form treaties with the native African chiefs for the utter abandonment of the slave trade on the windward coast; that Liberia has effected much for the interests of American commerce and the extirpation of the slave traffic;—and that the former would be vastly more advanced by effectual negotiations for the extinction of the latter.

'Immediate action is demanded. In the application of assistance to the cause, whether by governments or individuals, there should be no delay. The ever-moving wing of Time flags not, and while we are pausing, we die. How many who, at the opening of the year, co-operated in this enterprise, are now cold and silent in the dark retirement of the tomb!

'Could the writer speak and be heard, he would say to every one of his countrymen, the time has come for a united and mighty effort to bless our country and redeem Africa. If there were good reasons for giving existence to the society, that an experiment might be made, there are reasons still stronger, when the wisdom and beneficence of this experiment are demonstrated, why we should give it support. If a few individuals much opposed, feebly sustained in a work exceedingly difficult, and irradiated but faintly by any lights of experience, have done so much, what may not this nation, incited by a spirit and resolution worthy of her christian character, accomplish? "The golden rule of Christ, is, (said Lord Bacon) the perfection of the law of nature and nations." No soul of man, no civil power can escape from its authority.

'To place our coloured population, with their consent, in a position to build up a free and christian state, is to summon them to a work, in its very nature, of all others, most ennobling; in the execution of which they secure the highest means of happiness and best prepare themselves to enjoy it. In founding such a commonwealth on the African coast, they plant themselves in a position least accessible to opposing and withering influences, eligible beyond others for independence and self-government, for sensibility

to motives that best stir and strengthen our faculties, and of most commanding usefulness to their race. They become the Pilgrim Fathers to a land, rich in varied but undeveloped resources, where man roams untamed and unblest, which superstition darkens, cruelty tortures, and vice degrades. They bear with them the "Harp of Orpheus," and the "Harp of David;" the rugged aspect of nature grows smooth at their approach, and love softens her heart. The cannibal war-cry breaks no more the silence of night; songs of peace are echoed back from the lion's den, the wilderness becomes as Eden, and the desert as the garden of God. The incense of pure devotion greets the sun at his rising, and the fire burns unquenched beneath the evening star. The poor African is secure at his daily labour, he sleeps quietly in his rude dwelling, and is no longer afraid.

'Assured then, that the plan of African colonization, is entirely adapted to relieve one continent and regenerate another, to bless two races in this country, and one entire race in Africa, that its tendencies are for good in all directions, that its circuit of philanthropy is necessarily limited only by the wants and miseries of the African people, we make our appeal to the reason of every well-regulated mind, and invite every man capable of reflection, to reach forth his hand, express his opinion, and sustain the cause.

'We plead for it in the name of justice. To Africa, as a nation, we owe a debt, which no scanty donations, no wavering, inconstant, and undecided efforts can ever pay. Lift up your eyes, look upon our cultivated fields, our waving harvests, and all the rich products of habitual and faithful toil, and feel the obligation.

'And how can the friends of Christ, who desire all nations to look upon his cross, hesitate to promote with utmost energy this scheme, which from its necessary nature and operation, must train up and educate men in great numbers, on the African coast, to publish the doctrine of salvation. The imperfections of good men may occasion differences on some points between white missionaries established on the soil, or in the vicinity of our settlements, and the colonists; or men without just sentiments may cause them, but their existence is no valid reason for distrusting the mighty tendencies of such settlements to propagate our holy religion. They must have schools and seminaries. True religion will warm the souls of many of the people, young men dedicating themselves to the work of the ministry will go forth among the heathen; familiar with the languages and accustomed to the climate of Africa, they will be capable of exerting an extensive influence; their feet will indeed be beautiful upon the mountains and their word with power.

'And is there compassion in our hearts? This is an attribute of God himself. It is the last resort of misery. It is like the dew upon the mountains of Zion, like the gentle rain upon the withered herb. Look then upon Africa—a continent stretched out like the dishonoured and unburied dead of antiquity, the prey of wild beasts and of more savage men. The wail of her misery is on every breeze, her wounds bleed, her children perish, her tears flow, her soul is dark, she sits in grief and the dust and there are few to comfort her.'

TERMS.

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